

## Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 NEA-09 ISO-00 IO-10 SAM-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1034

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

US UN NEW YORK 463

USCINCEUR

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SP, SS, MO, UN

SUBJ: SPAIN TAKES DETERMINED STAND ON

MOROCCAN CLAIMS TO TERRITORY

REF: MADRID 825

SUMMARY: ON HEELS OF GOVT STATEMENT ISSUED FEB 7 DECLARING  
DECISION TO USE "LEGITIMATE MEANS TO DEFEND MELILLA AND  
CEUTA", SPANISH NAVAL FORCES WITH TWO MARINE BATTALIONS  
DOCKED AT BOTH SITES FEB 8. SPANISH ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF  
TOLD VISITING U.S. GENERAL OF GOS' DETERMINATION TO FIGHT  
FOR THESE ENCLAVES IF NECESSARY. NATIONAL COUNCIL OF MOVEMENT,  
FOLLOWING EXAMPLE OF "CORTES" AND LOCAL PARLIAMENTARY LEADERS  
FROM CEUTA AND MELILLA, HAS ALSO ISSUED STATEMENTS  
ATTACKING MOROCCAN PRETENSIONS. MEDIA NOTE THAT UN'S  
FOURTH COMMITTEE DID NOT TAKE UP ISSUE FEB 7, PRESUMABLY  
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BECAUSE OF ACTIVE CORRRIOR WORK OF SPANISH DEPLOMATS

WITH FRIENDLY COUNTRIES. END SUMMARY.

1. AT REGULAR WEEKLY COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING FEB 7, CHAIRED BY FRANCO, GOS ADOPTED STATEMENT ON MOROCCO PRETENSIONS TO SPANISH ENCLAVES AND ISLANDS ON MOROCCAN COAST WHOSE MAIN POINTS ARE: (A) MOROCCO'S "ATTEMPT TO BREAK UP NATIONAL UNITY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF SPAIN" WHICH ARE CNCOMPATIBLE WITH UN PRINCIPLES AND RESOLUTION 1514 OF DEC 14, 1960. (B) SPAIN HAS ALWAYS COLLABORATED LOYALLY WITH UN, ESPECIALLY WITH RESPECT TO PROCESS OF DECOLONIZATION OF TERRITORIES UNDER TIS CONTROL. MELILLA AND CUETA, ISLANDS OF CHAFARINAS, ROCKS OF VELEZ DE LA GOMERA AND ALHUCEMAS, HOWEVER, ARE PART OF SPAIN. AS SUCH, THEY HAVE BEEN RECOGNIZED BY MOROCCO ITSELF. (C) GOS WILL RESPOND TO MOROCCAN DEMANDS IN APPROPRIATE MANNER AT UN. (D) GOS WILL MEET "FIRMLY THE UNFOUNDED MOROCCAN PRETENSIONS ATTACKING NATIONAL UNITY AND SPANISH TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY WITH ALL LEGITIMATE MEANS WHICH ARE NECESSARY TO DEFEND MELILLA AND CEUTA."

2. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS BY JOURNALISTS AT END OF COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING, MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND TOURISM SAID GOS WAS ESPECIALLY INTERESTED IN PROMOTING DEVELOPMENT OF CEUTA AND MELILLA WITHIN MEANS AS ITS DISPOSAL. IT WAS ANNOUNCED FROM CEUTA ITSELF, FEB 6, THAT SPANISH ARMY CAPTAIN GENERAL OF SECOND MILITARY REGION, LT.GE. ALVAREZ-ARENAS, WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR CEUTA, HAD ARRIVED AT THIS PORT.

3. MEDIA ANNOUNCED FEB 8 ARRIVAL AT BOTH MELILLA AND CEUTA OF NAVAL FORCES IN LATE AFTERNOON, MELILLA TASKFORCE (GRUPO DE COMBATE) COMPRISED TWO DESTROYERS, ATTACK TRANSPORT, LST, ONE SUBMARINE, AND A SQUADRON OF ATTACK HELICOPTERS, PLUS ONE REINFORCED MARINE BATTALION. SECOND TASK FORCE TO CEUTA INCLUDED TWO ATTACK TRANSPORTS WITH REINFORCED MARINE BATTALION, ONE SUBMARINE, AND TWO SQUADRONS OF ATTACK HELICOPTERS. (TWO DESTROYERS ARRIVED WITHIN HOURS ALONG WITH A THIRD TRANSPORT WITH EMBARKED ARMORED VEHICLES.) ALL OF THESE FORCES COME UNDER OVERALL COMMAND OF MINISTER OF NAVY. DECISION TO ORDER TASK FORCES TO CEUTA AND MELILLA LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WAS PRESUMABLY REACHED AT EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF JUNTA OF NATIONAL DEFENSE AT MID-DAY FEB 6. PREMIER ARIAS NAVARRO CHAIRS THIS JUNTA WHOSE DECISION TO SEND MILITARY FORCES WAS UNDOUBTEDLY CLEARED WITH FRANCO IN ADVANCE, ALTHOUGH FORMAL APPROVAL WAS MADE AT COUNCIL OF MINISTERS FEB 7.

4. SPANISH ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF, LT. GEN. VILLAESCUSA,

TOLD VISITING U.S. ARMY GENERAL CRITTENBURGER THAT AS INTEGRAL PARTS OF SPAIN, CEUTA AND MELILLA WOULD BE DEFENDED DECISIVELY BY SPANISH ARMED FORCES.

5. SPANISH MEDIA HAVE CARRIED EXTENSIVE REPORTS ABOUT HISTORY AND BACKGROUND OF SPANISH ENCLAVES AND ISLANDS ON NORTH AFRICAN COAST WHICH HAVE BEEN PART OF SPAIN SINCE LATE 15TH CENTURY. COMMENTATORS REFER TO FACT THAT MOROCCO HAD LONG ACCEPTED JURIDICAL STATUS OF THESE AREAS AS BEING INTEGRAL PARTS OF SPAIN. NATIONAL COUNCIL OF MOVEMENT, FOLLOWING LEAD OF "CORTES" (REEFTEL) HAS ALSO INDICATED ITS FIRM DETERMINATION THAT GOS SHOULD DEFEND NORTH AFRICAN POSSESSIONS. LOCAL LEADERS IN "CORTES" FROM CEUTA AND MELILLA HAVE ALSO EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE IN SPANISH WILL TO DEFEND TERRITORY. SR. BECERRA LAGO, DEPUTY FROM CEUTA, ALLUDED TO FACT THAT "MOROCCAN CROWN IS GOING THROUGH DIFFICULT PERIODS AND IS ATTEMPTING TO UNIFY OPINION AROUND THEMES WHICH EXALT NATIONALISTIC SENTIMENTS". COMMENTARY IN "ACTUALIDAD POLITICA ESTRANJERA" DATED FEB 1, 1975, NOTES THAT HASSAN'S ACTIONS WITH RESPECT TO SAHARA (AND PRESUMABLY OTHER SPANISH TERRITORIES) ARE AIMED AT ASSOCIATING PARTIES IN A POLICY OF NATIONAL RECONCILIATION AROUND PERSON OF KING. NEWS COMMENTATORS ALSO ALLUDE TO ERRONEOUS BELIEF IN RABAT THAT, BECAUSE SPAIN APPARENTLY IS GOING THROUGH TRYING PERIOD OF TRANSITION, THAT GOS WOULD NOT HAVE WILL TO OPPOSE MOROCCAN EFFORTS TO OBTAIN CEUTA, MELILLA AND OTHER AREAS.

5. SOME COMMENTATORS INDIRECTLY ACCUSE U.S. OF HAVING ENCOURAGED MOROCCO IN ITS ATTEMPTS TO DISPOSSESS SPAIN OF CEUTA AND MELILLA AND OTHER AREAS BY PROVISION OF ARMS AND TRAINING OF MOROCCAN UNITS. OBSERVERS ALSO POINT OUT THAT SPAIN MAY HAVE TO REVISE ITS FOREIGN POLICY BECAUSE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF DISSILLUSIONMENT WITH AREAS WHERE IT FELT IT HAD SPECIAL TIES, FOR EXAMPLE, IN THE ARAB WORLD.

6. COMMENT: DATT HSERVES THAT DEPLOYMENT OF TWO SPANISH NAVAL TASK FORCES TO CEUTA AND MELILLA WAS APPARENTLY CARRIED OUT WITH EXCELLENT COORDINATION AND PLANNING. EMBASSY NOTES THAT GOVT STRUCTURE PROVIDING FOR TIMELY DECISION MAKING OF A NATIONAL DEFENSE CHARACTER SEEMS TO HAVE WORKED EFFECTIVELY UNDER ARIAS' LEADERSHIP IN JUNTA OF NATIONAL DEFENSE. GOS IS UNDOUBTEDLY BEHIND MUCH OF PRESS COVERAGE IN DETAIL ABOUT BACKGROUND OF SPANISH POSSESSION OF THESE NORTH AFRICAN ENCLAVES. TREATMENT OF THIS ISSUE IS QUITE DIFFERENT THAN TREATMENT GIVEN TO SAHARA. ALTHOUGH SAHARA WAS COVERED IN DETAIL BEGINNING IN SEPT

1974, THERE NEVER WAS ANY INDICATION THAT SPAIN INTENDED TO RETAIN THE AREA AS PART OF ITS TERRITORY BUT RATHER THAT IT WOULD EVENTUALLY RELINQUISH IT IN ONE FORM OR ANOTHER UNDER SUPERVISION OF US. IN THIS INSTANCE, GOS HAS TAKEN A CLEAR STAND THAT ISSUE IS ONE OF INTEGRITY OF NATIONAL TERRITORY AND AT THE MOMENT IT SEEMS DETERMINED TO DEFEND IT.

7. ALSO WORTH NOTING THAT PRELIMINARY CHECK OF SPANISH VESSELS INVOLVED INDICATES ALL, INCLUDING SUBMARINE, ARE SHIPS ORIGINALLY FURNISHED SPAIN BY U.S. MOST, IF NOT ALL OF THESE SHIPS AND MARINES ARE SCHEDULED TO PARTICIPATE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 23 IN A JOINT U.S. SPANISH NAVAL EXERCISE, TO INCLUDE BEACH LANDINGS BY MARINES FROM BOTH COUNTRIES AT CARBONEERAS--ALMOST DUE NORTH ACROSS MEDITERRANEAN FROM MELILLA. SPANISH MARINE HQS TOLD JUSMG/MAAG THIS MORNING SHOWING OF FLAG IN MELILLA AND CEUTA WOULD NOT RPT NOT INTERFERE WITH CARBONERAS EXERCISE.  
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